

MINUTES

Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA)

November 17, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner J. Robert Wooley called the meeting of the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA) to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll was called.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Commissioner J. Robert Wooley
Michael Boydstun
Lieutenant Allen Carpenter
Mr. Joseph Dupuis
Mr. Rodley Henry
Mr. Larry Hinton by proxy (Cleve Franklin)
Treasurer John Kennedy by proxy (Jason Stagg)
Mr. Richard Soileau
Mr. Clement Story

Members Absent

Senator James David Cain
Representative Karen Carter

Staff Members Present

Ms. Denise Cassano
Mr. Kevin Smith
Mr. Chris Fontenot
Ms. Ashley Bowman

Staff Members Absent

Commissioner J. Robert Wooley declared that a quorum was present. The minutes of the July 13, 2005 meeting were presented for review and approval. Mr. Rodley Henry made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2005 meeting as drafted. Mr. Mike Boydstun seconded that motion. The minutes were approved and adopted unanimously.

Ms. Denise Cassano gave a report on the fundraising efforts of the LATIFPA.

Mr. Chris Fontenot discussed a memorandum submitted to Ms. Cassano relative to the donation and transfer of property by the LATIFPA. Mr. Fontenot stated that the Louisiana Constitution bars or prohibits the donation of state property unless such a transfer is done under a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Mr. Fontenot further stated

that the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement must be approved by the Office of Contractual Review prior to its use.

At the July 13, 2005 meeting of the LATIFPA Board of Directors, a motion by Mr. Clement Story was deferred that would amend Article II, Section 1, of the LATIFPA Bylaws to read "The purpose of this public agency is to combat motor vehicle fraud and any violations of the insurance laws and criminal laws of the State of Louisiana as it relates to motor vehicle insurance." This motion was deferred pending legal research of the motion and a report to the board by Mr. Fontenot on the matter. After discussion of the July motion and report by Mr. Fontenot on the legalities of that motion, Mr. Story made a new motion to adopt the amended language in the Bylaws. The motion was seconded. There was no objection and the motion by Mr. Story was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Cassano discussed the formation of a steering committee for the purpose of reviewing grant applications and making recommendations to the LATIFPA Board of Directors as it pertains to the equipping and placement of bait cars. Ms. Cassano stated that this committee would be comprised of interested board members as well as outside law enforcement expertise. Lieutenant Allen Carpenter agreed that this process would facilitate the grant screening process. Mr. Soileau questioned the necessity of the proposed membership for the steering committee. After discussion on the matter, Mr. Rodley Henry made a motion to accept the formation of the steering committee as proposed. The motion was seconded. There was no objection and the motion by Mr. Henry was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Kevin Smith presented information regarding the placement and equipping of the GMC Yukon donated by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for use as a bait car. He presented quotes for GPS vehicle tracking equipment from both Orion Electronics Limited and BSM Wireless, Inc. Mr. Smith presented further information comparing the two equipment vendors.

Mr. Brandon Ortiz, Investigator, Northwest Louisiana Auto Theft Task Force, Shreveport Police Department was present at this meeting and was asked to comment on the equipment quotes presented by staff. Mr. Ortiz presented testimony on the equipment of both vendors and further acknowledged he had experience using the two types of GPS vehicle tracking equipment under discussion. During discussion, Mr. Smith emphasized that once a local law enforcement agency is selected for use of the equipped bait car the use agreement will be between the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and the local law enforcement agency selected. He further emphasized that any equipment purchased for the vehicle or any other monitoring equipment, i.e. computer, will be ultimately returned to the NICB for placement in another city at a later date. All of which will take into consideration pursuant to the bait car program in place at that time. Mr. Jimmy Jeter, NICB, who was present during this meeting, recommended the purchase of the BSM wireless equipment for use in this bait car. There was further discussion regarding the training programs available for these programs. After discussion, Mr. Richard Soileau made a motion to select the BSM wireless equipment at a cost of

\$11,512 per unit for use in this bait car. Commissioner Wooley stated that the funds to purchase the equipment would be donated at a later date by the LATIFPA to the NICB for the purchase of such equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodley Henry. There was no objection and the motion was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Soileau to place the GMC Yukon with the Northwest Louisiana Auto Theft Task Force, Shreveport, Louisiana. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Boydston. There was no objection and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Cassano reported on the public awareness programs under consideration for development by the authority and sought the input from the board members as to whether or not the board should consider refocusing these programs to take into consideration the various fraud issues that will result ultimately from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. There was no discussion on the matter. Commissioner Wooley thanked Lieutenant Carpenter for the exemplary organizational skills used to acquire a database and catalog of the cars flooded in the Louisiana parishes effected by Hurricane Katrina. Lieutenant Carpenter explained the process used to collect the information for the database as well as the coordination efforts of the other agencies involved in this process.

There was no further business and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Boydston. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joseph Dupuis and unanimously adopted. Accordingly, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.